



Radio Amateurs of Canada
Radio Amateurs du Canada

NEWS SERVICE

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ITEM 01 : ONTARIO DX ASSOCIATION MARCH FLEAMARKET

The only shortwave radio fleamarket held in Ontario is scheduled for Saturday, March 26, 1994 from 9 am to noon. The location is Trinity Presbyterian Church Hall, 2737 Bayview Avenue, Willowdale, (east side of Bayview, just south of Highway 401). Those requiring more information are asked to contact John Grimley, (416) 444-4771.

ITEM 02 : CIDA DEVELOPMENT DAYS SPECIAL PREFIXES

Industry and Science Canada has announced special prefixes for CIDA Development Days on Friday and Saturday, February 11 and 12, 1994.

This event takes place as an educational programme by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to promote awareness by Canadians of Canada's involvement with the countries of the third world.

Radio Amateurs of Canada assists CIDA by setting up amateur radio stations to contact other amateurs in the third world. The Boy Scouts of Canada are coordinating the contacts throughout Canada to promote the CIDA during this event.

The special call prefixes are used to facilitate these contacts and are assigned for use by all Canadian amateurs during this two day event:

Newfoundland	VO3
Labrador	VO4
New Brunswick	CF9
Nova Scotia	CF1
Quebec	CF2
Ontario	CF3
Manitoba	CF4
Saskatchewan	CF5
Alberta	CF6
British Columbia	CF7
New Territories	CF8
Yukon	VY3
PEI	VY4

ITEM 03 : CNIB AMATEUR RADIO PROGRAM CALLED A SUCCESS

Thanks to a product called HamLink developed by Advanced Electronic Applications (AEA), a number of visually impaired amateurs in Toronto are enjoying ham radio by remote operation of a shared HF station through their touchtone phone.

Users of the system gain access using a four digit code entered from their home touchtone phone. The radio can then be turned on, mode, frequency and antenna selected and direction determined, all from their phones. There are many options including scanning and use of memories.

George Fanjoy VE3PEB, who is directly involved with this project, says that he has talked to several visually impaired amateurs and all feel it's the best thing since sliced bread.

ITEM 04 : NOBEL WINNER ATTRIBUTES SUCCESS TO HAM RADIO

The winner of the 1993 Nobel Prize for Physics, Princeton University's Dr. Joseph H. Taylor, K1JT, attributes his success in science to his early involvement in Amateur Radio, according to published news accounts.

Taylor, who shared this year's award with his former student and current Princeton colleague, Dr. Russell A. Hulse, told reporters that he developed his scientific skills as a ham while a student at Moorestown Friends Academy in New Jersey.

Taylor earned a bachelor's degree from Haverford College in 1963 and a doctorate in astronomy from Harvard University. The Nobel committee awarded this year's physics prize to Taylor and Hulse for their study of the gigantic gravitational forces exerted by pulsars. Their results are thought by scientists to confirm many of the predictions of Einstein's General Theory of Relativity.

This item is from the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club bulletin and is attributed to W1AW via KT7H.

ITEM 05 : MADE IN CANADA

WINFAX is the biggest ever Canadian produced computer program on the software hit parade. The company has sold 2.5 million copies of the program, which allows a personal computer to act as a fax machine. A copy of the program is sold every three seconds with most of those sales going to the USA.

PerForm is another software program which dominates its market. The program allows businesses to send forms from computer to computer, getting rid of paper. The bulk of the sales for this Canadian product are to the USA. The government is Delrina's (the company that developed PerForm) largest customer. The company has a five year agreement with the US Defense Department.

A small Markham, Ontario based company that makes electronic price labels for supermarkets has recently announced its first mass sale. Telepanel Systems Inc. says it will equip 60 Loblaws stores over the next two years in a deal worth about \$4 million, according to the Toronto Star.

Telepanel says its electronic shelf labels allow retailers to quickly update product prices by computer instead of manually. They claim to be the only ones with a fully functional wireless system. Loblaws has been field testing Telepanel equipment since 1987, and already has systems installed in eight stores.

ITEM 06 : TALKING TO RONNIE McDONALD COSTLY

Try and imagine US Ham Terry Van Sickle's surprise when the FBI showed up to interrupt his broadcast with folks ordering their dinner at McDonald's. Adorned with seven antennas, his car wasn't exactly hard to spot. He is a video journalist for the local television station and his car was equipped with something in the order of \$15,000 in radio equipment, which was confiscated by the FBI.

Van Sicle obtained the McDonald frequency and would sit across the street and broadcast his voice over the drive-through speaker and interrupt the customer's order. It seems that the restaurant manager complained to the FBI that someone was broadcasting what a Dallas newspaper called "rude and racially offensive" remarks to customers over their menu board.

Van Sickle pleaded guilty. The maximum penalty the court can impose is one year imprisonment to be followed by one year supervised probation, plus a \$100,000 fine. This item from W1AW.

ITEM 07: WORLD AMATEUR POPULATION GROWING

W5YI Report Dec., 1993 carries an item which states that the world amateur population is some 2.4 million with an annual growth rate of 7%.

Industry and Science Canada estimates the Canadian amateur population at 41,014 as of October, 1993. Between April, 1990 and October, 1993, 15,787 new licenses were issued in Canada.

ITEM 08 : CODE-FREE HF HAMMING SURVEY IN THE UK

Radio Communication, the official journal of the Radio Society of Great Britain carried a survey on British views on whether Morse code should be a requirement for access to HF amateur bands. The survey appeared in their December, 1993 issue.

A total of 1,413 replies were received. There are approximately 60,000 licenced hams in the UK.

The data indicated that there is a two-to-one majority in favor of retaining Morse. The majority wanting to retain Morse were Class A (telegraphy proficient) licensees. The majority wishing to do away with it were Class B (predominately no code) amateurs. From W5YI Report, Dec., 1993.

ITEM 09 : CALL FOR TECHNICAL PAPERS

Radio Amateurs of Canada's first national convention is scheduled for Calgary, Alberta, July 29 - 31, 1994. Papers concerning both the technical and practical aspects of ham radio are welcome in regards to HF, VHF, UHF communication methods and techniques. ATV, SSTV, Packet, PACTOR, AMTOR, RTTY, Amsat, and EME. These papers shall centre on a 30 to 45 minute presentation with a 15 minute question and answer period from the audience. The papers shall be printed in the Technical Proceedings of the First National Convention of Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC).

The submission schedule is as follows:

- a. Author's name and a 150 to 300 word biography. Preferably material should be submitted on computer disk in ASCII format;
- b. Paper title, introduction and abstract are due no later than February 1, 1994;
- c. First editorial draft of paper will be due no later than March 15, 1994;
- d. Final copy for printing to be due no later than April 30, 1994;
- e. Seminar presentation dates and times will be confirmed later.

For further information contact: Ken Oelke VE6AFO, 7136 Temple Drive N.E., Calgary, Alberta T1Y 4E7.
Phone (403) 280-5340.

ITEM 10: NIAGARA RADIO FLEAMARKET

The Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club is holding a fleamarket at the Canadian Auto Worker's Hall, 124 Bunting Road, St. Catharines on Saturday, February 5, 1994. The Big Event #16 runs from 9 am to 2 pm.

ITEM 11 : ARES PACKET SOFTWARE AVAILABLE

The Carmonews from Charlottetown, PEI, carries an item in their January 1994 newsletter regarding ARES packet radio software designed specifically for emergency message handling. The program was written by Larry Driskill KE7AW and David Martin WA7FFM and is available free of charge to non-profit groups involved in emergency communications, thanks to the software designers and the Utah County Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

Pressing F6 will automatically import an emergency message form into the editor. Here, much of the information, such as time, date, message number, is automatically added as you tab through the form. Your message is typed into a message area and, when complete, pressing F10 will automatically trigger an alarm at the connected station, turn on its printer, print out the form, then turn its printer off. The sending station receives confirmation that this has been done in the form of status messages on the screen.

If this software interests you, write Keith McQueen N7HMF, 1087 North 506 West, Orem, Utah 84057.

ITEM 12 : CALGARY CONVENTION JULY 29 - 31, 1994

The Calgary Amateur Radio Association is hosting the RAC 1st National Convention in July and asks that those wishing to come to the convention and stay at a campsite reserve before February 28, 1994.

The convention committee has reserved a block of campsites at the nearest campground to the convention, which is 9 Kms away. To reserve either call or write to: Mountain View Farms, Site 8, P.O. Box 6, RR#6, Calgary, AB., T2M 4L5. Telephone (403) 293-6640.

According to the committee, this is a family run operation with very sincere people offering good facilities. They say all other campgrounds are a great distance from the Marlborough Inn Convention Centre on 33 Street S.E. No parking/camping will be permitted on the hotel parking lot. RAC Convention Chairman is Ken Oelke VE6AFO.

ITEM 13 : INSTANT HAM LICENCES PROPOSED?

The FCC in the U.S. has proposed temporary operating authority to unlicensed persons who pass the examination for a new amateur operator license. Those operating under the proposed new rules would use call signs determined by the initials of their name and by their mailing address. The prefix for each such call sign would be WZ followed by a number indicating the appropriate volunteer examiner coordinator region. The FCC said it was making the proposal to better serve new amateurs and to increase productivity in the processing of license applications.

The ARRL Bulletin 106, 10/25/1993 is quoted as the source for this item in the November 1993, Fulton N.Y. Amateur Radio Club Bulletin.

ITEM 14 : CAN PRESENT PACKET TECHNOLOGY SURVIVE?

Paul N2LSS, ponders the future of packet radio in the recent bulletin of the Fulton N.Y. Amateur Radio Club Bulletin. He says that ten years ago when AX.25 version 2.0 protocol was accepted as standard for packet, telephone modem transfer rates were 300 baud. Packet was on the cutting edge, playing with 1200 baud transfer rates. Today, telephone standard transfer rates are 14,400. With various other protocols thrown in, speeds of up to 38,400 are possible, and 56K is becoming the new cutting edge for telephone computer transfers.

Paul asks, "Why should I wait 15 minutes to list bulletins on my local packet BBS, when the same function can be performed in 10 seconds over a phone line?" He also questions why he should wait a week or more for a message to travel 500 miles over the packet network, when he can send it across the country on Internet in minutes?

He says that people out there are doing the work and 56K transfers on packet radio are possible, reminding everyone that it was done first some eight years ago. He says 9600 baud modems are readily available and radio can be modified to run at these speeds.

ITEM 15 : ARE VE LICENCE PLATES AN INVITATION TO THEFT?

According to VE3XAG, loss of mobile amateur radio equipment isn't uncommon when vehicles are marked with VE tags. He has recently had radios stolen from his car in a parking lot in the middle of the day. He says he has spoken to others with similar experience who share one thing in common, VE plates. Radios were recently stolen from amateur radio vehicles parked outside of a club meeting.

He suggests that if you have VE plates, get rid of them. Also recommended is a car alarm, and the removal of radio equipment from your vehicle when you are not in it.

Hams are reminded to be suspicious of anyone with a number of used radios for sale, often incomplete, without antennas, accessories or manuals.

ITEM 16: OUTGOING QSL BUREAU

The outgoing RAC QSL Bureau has moved to Alberta. The address is: RAC QSL Bureau, Bag 5000, Morinville, AB., T0G 1P0. The custodian is Norm Waltho VE6VW. Norm has prepared the following information which he hopes will help make QSL card handling easier for everyone.

The RAC QSL Bureau outgoing service is for RAC members only. The Bureau undertakes to send your cards around the world for you. This includes Overseas and American destinations. If you consider current airmail rates, it takes about 40 cards a year to pay for your RAC membership.

Here is how it works:

- Only regular sized QSL cards will be accepted. Any oversized cards will be folded;
- All QSL cards must have the callsign of the destination clearly marked on the upper right hand corner;
- QSL cards should only be sent to active bureaus;
- DXpedition, special prefixes and calls should have the QSL Manager's call clearly indicated. For example, please don't send W200, 8P9, ZL0, etc., unless you know who the QSL manager is;
- RAC members who are QSL Managers for other Radio Amateurs will be assessed \$1 for each 100 cards sent to the Outgoing Bureau for processing;
- Sort your cards alphanumerically. Sort cards for USA and Canada by call areas;
- Members using the Bureau for large volume DXpeditions and Club sponsored special events stations will be charged \$1 per 100 cards processed;
- Acknowledgement of receipt of cards will be given if you mail a self addressed stamped envelope with your cards;
- Your RAC membership number (include your mailing label), should be clearly displayed on the top left of the mailing envelope;
- QSL cards received which do not conform to the these guidelines will be put into a holding file. Members will be informed when this has taken place via a Bureau card. Members will have to pay a \$5 postage and handling fee to have cards returned. Cards remaining for a period exceeding one year will be destroyed.

RAC Bulletin Editor's note. Last month's RAC Bulletin received wide distribution and it contained an error in respect to the handling of QSL cards to the Outgoing Bureau. It said that your mailing envelope should contain only six or seven cards. This was incorrect. I regret this error and apologize for any inconvenience. Norm Waltho has told me that he doesn't care how many cards you include.

ITEM 17: RAC QSL BUREAU (INCOMING)

Member societies of the International Radio Union (IARU), operate a worldwide system of QSL Bureaus. The Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC), as the Canadian member society of IARU operates a Central Incoming Bureau, and the incoming QSL Bureau for the 12 Canadian call areas.

IARU member societies send cards to the RAC Central Bureau. Cards are then sorted and forwarded to the Incoming Bureau in each call area. These bureaus use one of three methods to get cards to you (see over). Even though RAC sponsors the bureaus, you DO NOT have to be a RAC member to use them. However, it is hoped that users will recognize that a benefit like the QSL Bureaus is worthy of your membership support.

The bureaus use one of these methods to get your cards to you:

- A) You send your bureau a quantity of 5 x 7.5 inch envelopes addressed to yourself. On the top left corner of each envelope print your callsign. On the top right corner of each envelope place enough postage to permit the bureau to mail 50 grams;
- B) Send your bureau \$5 and your name, callsign and address. The bureau will send your cards to you charging the cost of envelopes and postage against your \$5 credit. You will be informed when to send more money;
- C) Send your bureau \$5 as in method B and addressed envelopes as in method A. Do not place postage on your envelopes, the bureau will do this for you. You will be informed when to send more money or envelopes. Please keep your bureau informed of any address or callsign changes.

Bureaus are operated by dedicated Radio Amateurs who volunteer their time to provide this service. You should know that it often takes a long time to receive a card through the bureau system. With the high cost of postage, foreign Amateurs and Amateur Radio Societies tend to ship in bulk, often only once or twice a year. If a much needed card is slow in coming, it is unlikely the holdup is at the RAC Bureau. Please be patient. Finally, do not send outgoing cards to an Incoming Bureau.

Here are the addresses of RAC Incoming Bureaus and the handling method indicated by a letter A, B or C.

RAC VE0 VE1 INCOMING BUREAU Method B

KVARC

P.O. BOX 141

PETICODIAC, NB E0A 2H0

RAC VE2 INCOMING BUREAU Method A

A.G. DAEMEN

2960 DOUGLAS AVE

MONTREAL, PQ H3R 2E3

RAC VE3 INCOMING BUREAU Method A

THE ONTARIO TRILLIUMS

P.O. BOX 157

DOWNSVIEW, ON M3M 3A3

RAC VE4 INCOMING BUREAU Method A

ADAM ROMANCHVK VE4SN

26 MORRISON STREET

WINNIPEG, MAN R2V3B4

RAC VE5 INCOMING BUREAU Method B

BJARNE MADSEN VE5FX

739 WASHINGTON DR

WEYBURN SK S4H 3C7

RAC VE6 INCOMING BUREAU Method B

LARRY LANGSTON VE6LLL

P.O. BOX 3364

FORT SASKATCHEWAN AB T8L 2T3

RAC VE7 INCOMING BUREAU Method B

DENNIS LIVESEY

8309 112 STREET

DELTA, BC V4C 4W1

RAC VE8 INCOMING BUREAU Methods A & B

ROLF ZIEMANN VE8RZ

2 TAYLOR ROAD

YELLOWKNIFE, NT X1A 2K9

RAC V0 INCOMING BUREAU Method C

ROLY PEDDLE VO1BD

P.O. BOX 6

ST. JOHN'S NF A1C 5H5

RAC VY1 INCOMING BUREAU Method A

W.L. CHAMPAGNE VY1AU

P.O. BOX 4597

WHITEHORSE, YT Y1A 2R8